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earth was divided, there were twelve tribes and a half, and the half having transgressed the laws was lost. We believe you belong to these people, for they have no real king. The earth is your mother, and you are born and die; but the water is our mother, and we live with her always. During seven months of the year we are allowed to come on the earth twice a week, for one notch at a time. One day we have our sports, and Sunday we pay tribute to our king for his protection. We have long wanted to have you see us and our works, which, if you understand them, will show you many things that are to come, and brought about by whom we do not know. This is the first time any of our tribe was ever caught by your people, but those of other tribes have been. Fortunately you released us when we asked, or our king would have had his revenge and you would have been killed. But now we ask you, after we have showed you how we spend this notch in caring for our king, to go your way."

He gave the signal, and immediately all the little people began to work. Some ran with their ladders and placed them up against the large man to climb up on him; others ran to get their buckets filled with water, and then ran up the ladders and began to wash the face of the king; others took their rakes and combed out his hair; some took off his shoes, which were so large that they got into them to brush the dust out of them. We watched for some time, then the leader came and motioned for us to go away. We all turned in silence and went back to our canoe. We never again saw them; but stories tell us many times that strange works have been seen which are said to have been done by the water-fairies (*Warnungmeksooark*).

HARLEY STAMP.

PHILADELPHIA, PA.

THE ENGLISH FOLK-DANCE SOCIETY AND ITS WORK. — Professor Cecil J. Sharp, Honorary Director of the English Folk-Dance Society, has been passing several months in America. He has come to this country to superintend the incidental dances in Mr. Granville Barker's production of "Midsummer Night's Dream" at Wallack's Theatre, New York. He has taken occasion to visit other cities, including Boston and Pittsburgh, where he has lectured on English folk-song and folk-dancing, and has given instruction in the latter, with the skillful assistance of Miss Kay.

Folk-dancing easily proves itself of æsthetic worth, but it has been found of great service in the work of "social betterment." Many "Branches" have been established in England, and it is not impossible that similar organizations may be attempted in America.

Mr. Sharp's great title to our gratitude lies in the results of his persevering effort, whereby he has been able to "unearth" many folk-dances and melodies of very ancient origin, or on the ground where they have of themselves persisted. Beyond this original research, he has the acumen of the scholar in publication, and the enthusiasm of the teacher in instruction.

Director of the "Summer School" at Stratford-on-Avon, he "gives students a practical and theoretical knowledge of English folk songs and dances, which will enable them to qualify as teachers or performers in these subjects." "The English Folk-Dance Society's Journal," of which the initial number was recently issued, gives an encouraging suggestion, in words and music, of what is going on and what may be done. The publication address is 73, Avenue Chambers, London, W.C.

For two seasons classes in Boston, Cambridge, and Lincoln, Mass., and in Chocorua, N.H., have been practising Country, Sword, and Morris dancing, getting as near to the spirit and exercise of bygone centuries as the age and disposition of the participants permitted. Mr. Claude Wright of the Stratford School has been the instructor, and demonstrations in public have been given. A performance in presence of the Boston and Cambridge Branches of the American Folk-Lore Society was held last May in the open.

The enthusiasm and increasing skill of those who have tried this dancing are contagious. The Secretary of the General Society, himself an ardent devotee, will gladly give any details or encouragement in his power.

CHARLES PEABODY.